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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/587,597

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EXAMINER

HEWITT, JAMES M

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/587,597	Applicant(s) PEDERSEN ET AL.	
	Examiner JAMES M. HEWITT	Art Unit 3679	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 June 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 10-12, 14-17, 19-28, 30-32 and 34-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-12, 14-17, 19-28, 30-32 and 34-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it includes the legal phraseology “means”; note line 6. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 10-12, 14-17, 19-28, 30-32 and 34-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Petty et al (US 5,150,930).

As to claim 10, Petty et al disclose a connector, comprising: at least one female part (1) for forming a sealing connection with at least one male part; and a plurality of locking tangs (9) formed in the female part for engaging the male part, each of the locking tangs having at least one recess (14) configured for receiving a tool to disengage the connection between the male and female parts; the at least one recess extending transversely to a direction of movement of the locking tangs upon disengagement of the male and female parts.

As to the limitation “the at least one recess extending transversely to a direction of movement of the locking tangs upon disengagement of the male and female parts.”,

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recess (14) in Petty et al includes a longitudinal axis along which a longitudinal dimension is defined and radial axes along which radial dimensions are defined. Given the broadest reasonable interpretation, the recess (14) extends along a given radial axis, transverse to a direction of movement of the locking tangs upon disengagement of the male and female parts.

As to claim 11, Petty et al disclose a connector of claim 10, wherein the recess comprises a hole extending at least partially through the corresponding locking tang.

As to claim 12, Petty et al disclose a connector of claim 10, wherein the recess comprises a hole extending completely through the corresponding locking tang.

As to claim 14, Petty et al disclose a connector of claim 13, wherein at least two of the locking tangs have the recesses for receiving the tool to urge apart the locking tangs.

As to claim 15, Petty et al disclose a connector of claim 14, wherein the tool is inserted into the recess of each of the two locking tangs to disengage the connection between the male and female parts.

As to claim 16, Petty et al disclose a connector of claim 10, wherein the male part includes at least one shoulder (corrugation) for engaging the locking tangs.

As to claim 17, Petty et al disclose a connector of claim 10, wherein the male part includes at least one groove (trough) for engaging the locking tangs.

As to claim 19, Petty et al disclose a connector of claim 10, wherein the plurality of locking tangs are formed integrally with the female part.

As to claim 20, Petty et al disclose a connector of claim 10, wherein the locking tangs have free ends pointing in a direction of insertion of the male part into the female part.

As to claim 21, Petty et al disclose a connector of claim 20, wherein the free ends of the locking tangs project into a space in the female part for engagement with the male part.

As to claim 22, Petty et al disclose a connector of claim 10, wherein each of the locking tangs has a smooth portion, and another smooth portion is formed on the female part, such that the smooth portions together form a position indicator indicating whether the male part is properly inserted into the female part. Refer to FIG. 1 and FIG. 2.

As to claim 23, Petty et al disclose a connector of claim 22, wherein upon proper insertion of the male part into the female part, the smooth portions are in the same

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radial position, whereas upon improper insertion of the male part into the female part, the smooth portion of each locking tang is displaced radially outwardly of the male part.

Refer to FIG. 1 and FIG. 2.

As to claim 24, Petty et al disclose a connector of claim 10, wherein the connector includes a plurality of female parts forming at least one of an in-line connector, an elbow, a tee, and a cross.

As to claim 25, Petty et al disclose a connector of claim 10, wherein the female part includes at least one nipple (threaded end) for mounting at least one pipe or hose.

As to claim 26, Petty et al disclose a connector of claim 10, wherein at least one fluid flows through the male and female parts.

As to claim 27, Petty et al disclose a connector for forming a sealing connection between at least one female part (1) and at least one male part, comprising: a plurality of locking tangs (9) formed in the female part for engaging the male part, each of the locking tangs having an engaging means (14 or 10) configured for receiving a tool to disengage the connection between the male and female parts; the engaging means extending transversely to a direction of movement of the locking tangs upon disengagement of the male and female parts.

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As to the limitation “the at least one recess extending transversely to a direction of movement of the locking tangs upon disengagement of the male and female parts.”, recess (14) in Petty et al includes a longitudinal axis along which a longitudinal dimension is defined and radial axes along which radial dimensions are defined. Given the broadest reasonable interpretation, the recess (14) extends along a given radial axis, transverse to a direction of movement of the locking tangs upon disengagement of the male and female parts.

As to claim 28, Petty et al disclose a connector of claim 27, wherein the engaging means is a recess or hole.

As to claim 30, Petty et al disclose a connector of claim 29, wherein at least two of the locking tangs each have the recess or hole for receiving the tool to urge apart the locking tangs.

As to claim 31, Petty et al disclose a connector of claim 30, wherein the tool is inserted into the recess or hole of the two locking tangs to disengage the connection between the male and female parts.

As to claim 32, Petty et al disclose a connector of claim 27, wherein the engaging means is a projection or lug.

As to claim 34, Petty et al disclose a method for forming a releasable connection between at least one female part and at least one male part, comprising the steps of: forming a plurality of locking tangs in the female part, each of the locking tangs having at least one recess and configured for receiving a tool to disengage the connection between the male and female parts; the at least one recess extending transversely to a direction of movement of the locking tangs upon disengagement of the male and female parts; and engaging the locking tangs with the male part.

As to the limitation “the at least one recess extending transversely to a direction of movement of the locking tangs upon disengagement of the male and female parts.”, recess (14) in Petty et al includes a longitudinal axis along which a longitudinal dimension is defined and radial axes along which radial dimensions are defined. Given the broadest reasonable interpretation, the recess (14) extends along a given radial axis, transverse to a direction of movement of the locking tangs.

As to claim 35, Petty et al disclose a method of claim 34, wherein the male part is formed with at least one first shoulder (corrugation) and at least one second shoulder (corrugation), and the female part includes at least one O- ring (65).

As to claim 36, Petty et al disclose a method of claim 35, wherein the step of engaging the locking tangs with the male part comprises the steps of: engaging the locking tangs with the at least one first shoulder of the male part; and engaging the

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locking tangs with the at least one second shoulder of the male part such that the at least one O-ring of the female part becomes compressed.

As to claim 37, Petty et al disclose a method of claim 34, further comprising the step of: inserting the tool into the recesses of two of the locking tangs to urge apart the locking tangs and disengage the connection between the male and female parts.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 6/16/10 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Petty et al fail to teach the limitation “the at least one recess extending transversely to a direction of movement of the locking tangs upon disengagement of the male and female parts” as posited in claim 18, and similarly recited in claims 27 and 34. The recess (14) in Petty et al includes a longitudinal axis along which a longitudinal dimension is defined and radial axes along which radial dimensions are defined. Given the broadest reasonable interpretation, the recess (14) extends along a given radial axis, transverse to a direction of movement of the locking tangs, and therefore Petty et al meets the limitation “the at least one recess extending transversely to a direction of movement of the locking tangs upon disengagement of the male and female parts” as posited in claim 18, and similarly recited in claims 27 and 34.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMES M. HEWITT whose telephone number is (571)272-7084. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 930am-600pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/James M Hewitt/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3679